

Serial No. 10/031,218

Art Unit: 3731

Examiner: Bradford C. Pantuck

1. (Previously Amended) A surgical clip, comprising an elongate upper jaw and an elongate lower jaw attached together at a first hinge end, the lower jaw being provided with latching means at an opposite end to the hinge, the jaws being provided with a silicone rubber lining on either the upper or lower jaw in which the upper jaw comprises an arcuate shaped section characterised in that the upper jaw comprises a complex shape comprising a first substantially straight section adjacent to the hinge and a second arcuate shaped section adjoining the straight section and in which the second arcuate shaped section comprises a first arcuate shaped portion adjacent to said substantially straight section and a second arcuate shaped portion adjacent to said first arcuate shaped portion at an opposite end of said first arcuate shaped portion to said substantially straight section, said first arcuate shaped portion having a first radius of curvature on at least its outer contact surface that is substantially greater than the radius of curvature of said second arcuate shaped portion which has a second radius of curvature.

2. (Previously Amended) A surgical clip as claimed in Claim 1, in which the arcuate section comprises a third generally straight section adjacent to said second arcuate shaped portion at the opposite end of said second arcuate shaped portion to the hinge, said generally straight section, when in the closed position of the clip interlocking under the latching section of the lower jaw.

3. (Original) A surgical clip as claimed in Claim 2 in which said first radius of curvature is of the order of three times that of the second radius of curvature.

4. (Previously Added) A surgical clip as claimed in claim 1 further including a distal generally straight section adjacent to said second arcuate shaped portion at the opposite end of said second arcuate shaped portion to the hinge, said distal generally straight section including a free end that extends in a direction distally of said hinge.

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5. (Previously Added) A surgical clip as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first arcuate shaped portion has the same width therealong.

6. (Previously Added) A surgical clip as claimed in claim 1 wherein said second arcuate shaped section has the same width therealong.

Please add the following claims.

7. (New) A surgical clip as claimed in claim 1 further having on said upper jaw a distal generally straight section contiguous with said second arcuate shaped portion.

8. (New) A surgical clip as claimed in claim 7 wherein the distal generally straight section includes a free end.

9. (New) A surgical clip as claimed in claim 8 wherein, when the upper jaw is distorted it fits within the latch means because the initial closure pressure is imposed on the straight section and thus the initial pressure fails to distant the arcuate shaped section until the free end has been depressed toward the lower jaw.